

This Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98 is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made, that additional information material to the examination of this application does not exist, or that any one or more of these items constitutes prior art.

I

This statement is filed pursuant to:

(X) 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b).

This information disclosure statement is filed either (1) within three months of the filing date of the national applications; (2) within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.491 in an international application; or (3) before the mailing date of a first office action on the merits, whichever event occurs last.

Accordingly, this information disclosure statement requires no fee and no certification.

( ) 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c).

This information disclosure statement is filed after the period specified in 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 (b), but before the mailing date of either (1) a final action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113 or (2) a notice of allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.311.

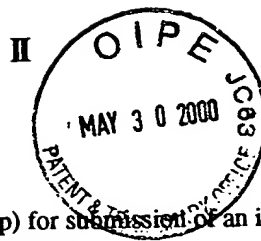
Accordingly, this information disclosure statement requires either the fee specified in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 (p) for submission of an information disclosure statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 (c) (\$240), or a certification according to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 (e).

( ) 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d).

This information disclosure statement is filed after the period specified in 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 (c).

Accordingly, this information disclosure statement requires the petition fee specified in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 (i) (1) to consider an information disclosure statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d) (\$130), a certification according to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e), and a petition requesting consideration of the information disclosure statement.

If this statement crosses in the mail with an office action, or is otherwise not in the indicated category of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97, it is respectfully requested that this statement be treated in the next appropriate category and made of record. To the extent required, please treat this paper as a conditional petition for acceptance of the information disclosure statement.



- (X) No fee is due
- ( ) The fee specified in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) for submission of an information disclosure statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) is enclosed (\$240).
- ( ) The petition fee specified in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) (1) to consider an information disclosure statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d) is enclosed (\$130.00).

Please charge any additional required fee or credit any overpayment to our deposit account number 04-0025. An additional copy of this page is enclosed.

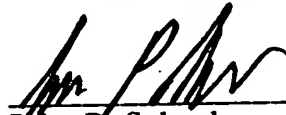
III

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) , I certify:

- (X) No certification is necessary.
- ( ) (1) Each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the statement.
- ( ) (2) No item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, or, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c), more than three months prior to the filing of the statement.

Respectfully submitted,  
D'ALESSANDRO & RITCHIE

Dated: May 26, 2000

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John P. Schaub  
Reg. No. 42,125

D'Alessandro & Ritchie  
P.O. Box 640640  
San Jose, CA 95164-0640  
(408) 441-1100